

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT GREENEVILLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	No. 2:19-CR-196
)	JUDGE GREER
SHERRI RENEE HILLMAN)	

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America, by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and the defendant, Sherri Renee Hillman, and the defendant's attorney, B. Andrew Glenn, have agreed upon the following:

1. The defendant will plead guilty to the following count(s) in the indictment:
 - a) The lesser included offense of Count One, that is, conspiracy to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, its isomers, and salts of its isomers, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B).

The punishment for this offense is as follows: A minimum mandatory five years up to 40 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$5,000,000.00, a minimum of four years up to life on supervised release, and a \$100.00 mandatory assessment fee.

2. In consideration of the defendant's guilty plea(s), the United States agrees to move the Court at the time of sentencing to dismiss the remaining count(s) against the defendant in this indictment.

3. The defendant has read the indictment, discussed the charges and possible defenses with defense counsel, and understands the crime(s) charged.

4. In support of the defendant's guilty plea, the defendant agrees and stipulates to the following facts, which satisfy the offense elements. These are the facts submitted for purposes of

the defendant's guilty plea. They do not necessarily constitute all of the facts in the case. Other facts may be relevant to sentencing. Both the defendant and the United States retain the right to present additional facts to the Court to ensure a fair and appropriate sentence in this case.

The defendant was a member of a drug trafficking organization led by co-defendant Joshua Davis during the time frame set forth in the indictment.

On May 18, 2018, Defendant was transported to Holston Valley Hospital in reference to a drug overdose. While at the hospital, medical staff located .8 gram of methamphetamine and pills on Defendant's person.

On August 1, 2018, Kingsport Police Officers encountered Defendant after she was caught shoplifting at Walmart, located at 3200 Fort Henry Drive. Officers located a syringe with needle and a pill crusher inside of her purse. Defendant was arrested at the scene.

On December 13, 2018, agents interviewed a confidential source (CS) at the Kingsport Police Department. CS stated that Sherri Defendant went by the street moniker "9-ball", and sold methamphetamine.

On April 7, 2019, Kingsport Police Officers responded to a call of two female subjects passed out in a car at First Baptist Church. Officers discovered that one of the females, Defendant, was in possession of six baggies of methamphetamine. Officers also located digital scales, baggies, and a glass pipe in various bags that Defendant claimed were hers.

On April 8, 2019, a search warrant was obtained in Sullivan County, Tennessee for the content of a Samsung cellular phone that was in the possession of Defendant, aka "9-Ball", during her arrest for possession of methamphetamine on April 7, 2019. In response to the execution of this search warrant on Defendant's cellular phone, officers received multiple text messages between Defendant and co-defendants. On March 23, 2019, Defendant texted a co-defendant, indicating that

another co-defendant asked for that co-defendant to call him. Defendant also sent a text to a co-defendant to tell him that she needed methamphetamine. Co-defendant asked Defendant where she was located so he could meet her, and Defendant responded that she was on Gravely Road. Defendant told co-defendant to hold on, because not all the money had arrived to her, and that she would call when the money arrived.

On March 25, 2019, Defendant texted an unindicted co-conspirator, and asked her to tell a co-defendant that she had around \$400 and needed more methamphetamine. Defendant sent another text to unindicted co-conspirator to tell her that she sold another ounce of methamphetamine, now had \$1,000, and asked her to tell co-defendant.

On March 25, 2019, Defendant texted another co-defendant to inform him that an ounce of methamphetamine was \$550, and half an ounce was \$275. Defendant explained that was how much she was being charged by the above co-defendant. Defendant asked this co-defendant if he wanted to purchase one-half ounce of methamphetamine. Co-defendant replied "yes."

On March 29, 2019, Defendant texted the first named co-defendant to ask if he would sell her one-half ounce of methamphetamine for \$275. Defendant asked this co-defendant if he could not sell the one-half ounce of methamphetamine at that price, if he would give her a little extra for herself. Co-defendant sent a text to Defendant telling her that she had to learn to tell her customers to help her out. Co-defendant said he would help Defendant out, but he could not give her a lot because he was paying \$6,500 for a pound of methamphetamine, and that it was expensive. Defendant sent a text to co-defendant agreeing that the price he paying for the pound was expensive. Defendant sent a text to co-defendant stating that she did not expect much from him, but would gladly take any help with the price or extra methamphetamine. Co-defendant sent a text to Defendant to tell her that he would take care of her.

On March 31, 2019, Defendant sent a text to the another co-defendant indicating that she needed an ounce of methamphetamine and an additional 3.5 grams ("game").

On April 3, 2019, an additional co-defendant sent a text to inform her that he had enough methamphetamine to cover him for a short period of time. Defendant sent a text to co-defendant to inform him that she had a quarter ounce of methamphetamine if he needed it.

On April 5, 2019, Defendant texted unindicted conspirator asking for 3.5 grams of cocaine.

On June 28, 2019, agents interviewed Dustin Overbay. Overbay was asked about a video that was located on the cell phone of Defendant that showed Overbay asleep from an apparent drug overdose, and methamphetamine lying in the floor. Overbay said that Defendant had drugged him in an attempt to rob him. Overbay said that Thomas Cole was present when the video was made.

In a post-indictment interview of Allen Neff, Neff indicated that he occasionally bought methamphetamine from Defendant.

In a post-indictment interview of co-defendant Coy McMurray, McMurray stated that he sold quarter-ounce quantities of methamphetamine once or twice a week to Terra Fetherman, Defendant, and Allen Neff.

In a post-indictment interview of co-defendant Joshua Davis, Davis said that David Garber sold methamphetamine to Defendant and Jason Bingham.

The defendant admits that she conspired with at least one other person to distribute methamphetamine as charged in the indictment, and that she is responsible for the distribution of at least 20 grams but less than 35 grams of methamphetamine (actual).

5. The defendant is pleading guilty because the defendant is in fact guilty. The defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, the defendant is giving up several rights, including:

- a) the right to plead not guilty;
- b) the right to a speedy and public trial by jury;
- c) the right to assistance of counsel at trial;
- d) the right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the United States to prove the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt;
- e) the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant;
- f) the right to testify on one's own behalf, to present evidence in opposition to the charges, and to compel the attendance of witnesses; and
- g) the right not to testify and to have that choice not used against the defendant.

6. The parties agree that the appropriate disposition of this case would be the following as to each count:

- a) The Court may impose any lawful term(s) of imprisonment, any lawful fine(s), and any lawful term(s) of supervised release up to the statutory maximum(s);
- b) The Court will impose special assessment fees as required by law; and
- c) The Court may order forfeiture as applicable and restitution as appropriate.

No promises have been made by any representative of the United States to the defendant as to what the sentence will be in this case. Any estimates or predictions made to the defendant by defense counsel or any other person regarding any potential sentence in this case are not binding on the Court, and may not be used as a basis to rescind this plea agreement or withdraw the defendant's guilty plea(s). The defendant understands that the sentence in this case will be determined by the Court after it receives the presentence investigation report from the United States Probation Office and any information presented by the parties. The defendant acknowledges that the sentencing determination will be based upon the entire scope of the defendant's criminal conduct, the

defendant's criminal history, and pursuant to other factors and guidelines as set forth in the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

7. Given the defendant's agreement to plead guilty, the United States will not oppose a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility under the provisions of Section 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines. Further, if the defendant's offense level is 16 or greater, and the defendant is awarded the two-level reduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a), the United States agrees to move, at or before the time of sentencing, the Court to decrease the offense level by one additional level pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) of the Sentencing Guidelines. Should the defendant engage in any conduct or make any statements that are inconsistent with accepting responsibility for the defendant's offense(s), including violations of conditions of release or the commission of any additional offense(s) prior to sentencing, the United States will be free to decline to make such motion, to withdraw that motion if already made, and to recommend to the Court that the defendant not receive any reduction for acceptance of responsibility under Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines.

8. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment in this case prior to sentencing.

9. Financial Obligations. The defendant agrees to pay all fines and restitution imposed by the Court to the Clerk of Court. The defendant also agrees that the full fine and/or restitution amount(s) shall be considered due and payable immediately. If the defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, the defendant agrees that the Bureau of Prisons and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish payment schedules to ensure payment of the fine and/or restitution. The defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in efforts to collect any financial obligation imposed by the Court by set-off of federal payments, execution on non-exempt property, and any other means

the United States deems appropriate. The defendant and counsel also agree that the defendant may be contacted post-judgment regarding the collection of any financial obligation imposed by the Court without notifying the defendant's counsel and outside the presence of the defendant's counsel. In order to facilitate the collection of financial obligations to be imposed with this prosecution, the defendant agrees to disclose fully all assets in which the defendant has any interest or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those held by a spouse, nominee, or other third party. In furtherance of this agreement, the defendant additionally agrees to the following specific terms and conditions:

a) If so requested by the United States, the defendant will promptly submit a completed financial statement to the U.S. Attorney's Office, in a form it provides and as it directs. The defendant promises that such financial statement and disclosures will be complete, accurate, and truthful.

b) The defendant expressly authorizes the U.S. Attorney's Office to obtain a credit report on the defendant in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court.

c) If so requested by the United States, the defendant will promptly execute authorizations on forms provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office to permit the U.S. Attorney's Office to obtain financial and tax records of the defendant.

10. The defendant acknowledges that the principal benefits to the United States of a plea agreement include the conservation of limited government resources and bringing a certain end to the case. Accordingly, in consideration of the concessions made by the United States in this agreement and as a further demonstration of the defendant's acceptance of responsibility for the

offense(s) committed, the defendant voluntarily, knowingly, and intentionally agrees to the following:

a) The defendant will not file a direct appeal of the defendant's conviction(s) or sentence with one exception: The defendant retains the right to appeal a sentence imposed above the sentencing guideline range determined by the Court or above any mandatory minimum sentence deemed applicable by the Court, whichever is greater. The defendant also waives the right to appeal the Court's determination as to whether the defendant's sentence will be consecutive or partially concurrent to any other sentence.

b) The defendant will not file any motions or pleadings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or otherwise collaterally attack the defendant's conviction(s) or sentence, with two exceptions: The defendant retains the right to file a § 2255 motion as to (i) prosecutorial misconduct and (ii) ineffective assistance of counsel.

c) The defendant will not, whether directly or by a representative, request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a.

11. This plea agreement becomes effective once it is signed by the parties and is not contingent on the defendant's entry of a guilty plea. If the United States violates the terms of this plea agreement, the defendant will have the right to withdraw from this agreement. If the defendant violates the terms of this plea agreement in any way (including but not limited to failing to enter guilty plea(s) as agreed herein, moving to withdraw guilty plea(s) after entry, or by violating any court order or any local, state or federal law pending the resolution of this case), then the United

States will have the right to void any or all parts of the agreement and may also enforce whatever parts of the agreement it chooses. In addition, the United States may prosecute the defendant for any and all federal crimes that the defendant committed related to this case, including any charges that were dismissed and any other charges which the United States agreed not to pursue. The defendant expressly waives any statute of limitations defense and any constitutional or speedy trial or double jeopardy defense to such a prosecution. The defendant also understands that a violation of this plea agreement by the defendant does not entitle the defendant to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea(s) in this case.

12. The United States will file a supplement in this case, as required in every case by the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, even though there may or may not be any additional terms. If additional terms are included in the supplement, they are hereby fully incorporated herein.

13. This plea agreement and supplement constitute the full and complete agreement and understanding between the parties concerning the defendant's guilty plea to the above-referenced charge(s), and there are no other agreements, promises, undertakings, or understandings between the defendant and the United States. The parties understand and agree that the terms of this plea agreement can be modified only in writing signed by all of the parties and that any and all other promises, representations, and statements whether made before, contemporaneous with, or after this agreement, are null and void.

J. DOUGLAS OVERBEY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


8.7.2020
Date

By: 
J. GREGORY BOWMAN
Assistant United States Attorney

8/3/20
Date


SHERRI RENEE HILLMAN
Defendant

8/3/2020
Date


B. ANDREW GLENN
Attorney for the Defendant